

It is feasible for a state EMS Lead Agency to implement a statewide specialty hospital designation program and establish a prehospital bypass protocol directing appropriate patients to these centers. Our analysis demonstrates that the number of patients who may benefit from this system enhancement is significant. In Arizona, early results show an increased utilization of TH and increased survival to discharge. Data from this program will also provide insight into issues regarding the optimal timing, method, interactions with other therapies, and duration of cooling post cardiac arrest patients. Our preliminary experience suggests that this approach may serve as a model for other states and large healthcare systems.